

Application Guidelines

2

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The one overriding characteristic of medical facilities—all medical facilities—is the fact that their appearance is not defined by their interior finishes so much as by their furnishings, informational displays, and medical equipment; and these are not necessarily designed or placed with quality of the environment in mind. Medical equipment, in particular, tends to be hard, cold, and oddly shaped. Its unavoidable presence can render a space inhumane. A natural response is to try to counter the impact of these uncontrollable items through the addition of more-comforting elements of design—favorite colors, decorative materials, ornamental elements, and such. This response, over time, has brought chaos and coarseness to many of the facilities within the ERMCC. Chaos requires structure to be tamed. Given this starting point, a design basis for the Environment of Care requires that control be exercised first and foremost.

Concept

We begin with a simple design concept.

A single color direction makes up the core of the ECE material finish solution, and it is neutral.

U.S. Army medical facilities are subject to a variety of influences that are beyond the control of the interior designer or architect. No matter how well designed a space is, a haphazard furnishing of the space, with existing furniture and equipment and unplanned trimmings, will render the original intent inconsequential.

Due to turnover of operations personnel, changes in use, and limited budgets, U.S. Army medical facilities have to be extremely versatile, even chameleon-like, in order for them to accommodate the variety of uses that they are subjected to and still maintain a semblance of forethought. To assure a consistent and professional environment of care that recognizes continuous alterations and modifications, a broad range of architectural and operational surroundings, and pre-existing conditions; a **neutral core** is prescribed. This will serve as a background removed from the influence of chance, trend, and whim. A neutral background will support all the various aesthetic and technical directions imposed upon it.

The neutral core chosen is a light one in recognition of concerns expressed by users regarding cleanliness, maintenance, and the perception of some facilities as dark, and gloomy.

To add diversity to the application of the neutral core, there are five variants. Three primary variants are available to all facilities—**Green**, **Coral**, and **Blue** (Fig. 1). Each clinic will have a single variant palette. Facilities housing combined medical and dental clinics may have two palettes, but each palette is to be applied to only one clinic.

Two supplementary variants are available to hospitals where additional palettes may be required for use as part of an overall wayfinding system—**Wine** and **Gray** (Fig. 2). Each floor or other major spatial division of a hospital is to be finished in a single variant palette.

Regardless of the variant palette selected, the majority of the material finish surfaces will always be neutral.

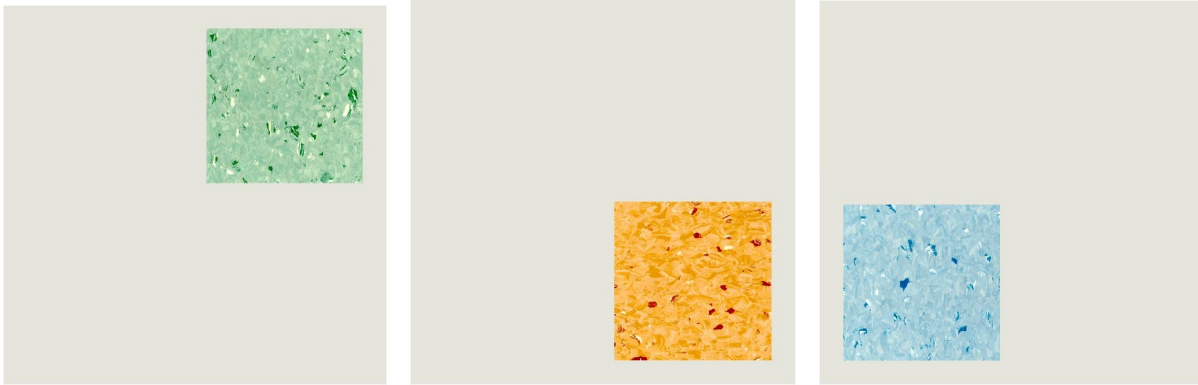


Fig. 1 Three primary variants of the Neutral Core—Green, Coral, and Blue

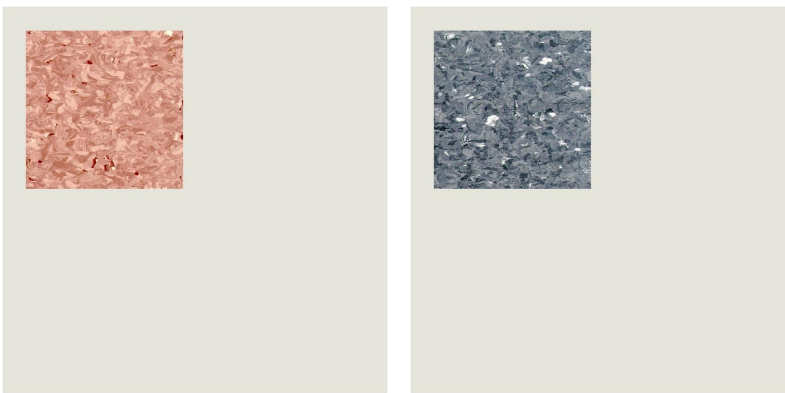


Fig. 2 Two additional supplementary options—Wine and Gray

Application of the ECE Material Finish Solution will always start with the neutral core. When complete, 85-95 percent of the built surfaces will be covered by the neutral core. The remaining 5-15 percent will either be subtle application of the variant colors, or more dramatic statements where dictated by function or other external criteria.

That said, what follows gives direction as to the general application of the ECE Design Solution.

Components of the Material Finish Solution

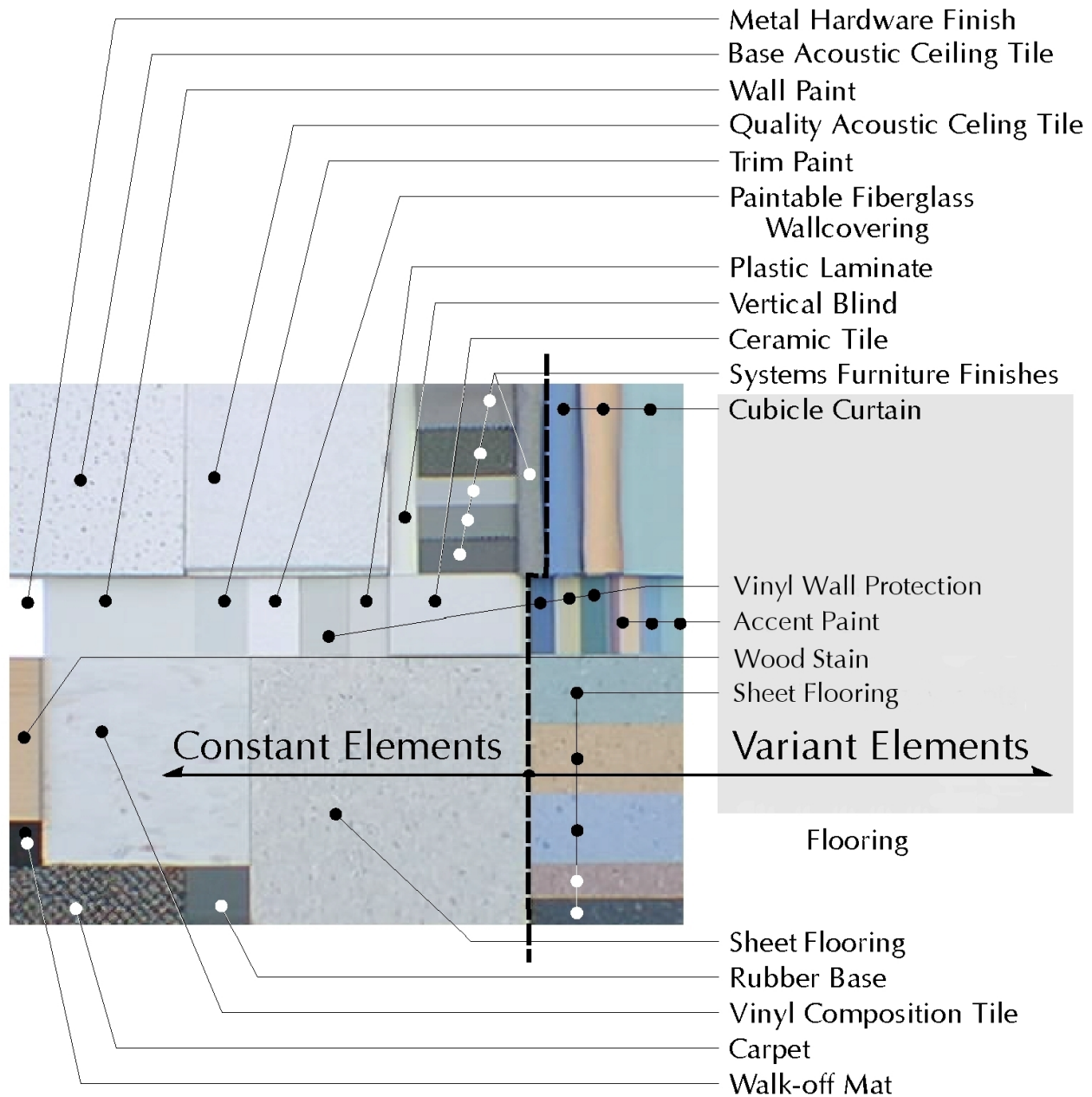


Fig. 3 The ECE Material Finishes

There are two classes of materials within the body specified for the ECE: constants and variants. The constant materials are either neutral in color, or—as is the case with paintable fiberglass wallcovering—neutral in effect. These form the main body of the finish palette. Enduring surfaces—those that have the greatest life expectancy such as ceramic tile, doors, and wall protection—are typically constant elements.

Variant elements are those that bring color to the space: accent colors of paint, floor borders, wall protection, window treatments, and cubicle curtains. Variants are typically either easily changed elements such as drapery, cubicle curtains, or paint, or they are a minor accent such as a handrail insert, or flooring border. Because the application of a variant color may remain even through multiple renovations of a space, the colors that form the variant options are representative of enduring color families, and will endure through time.

Palettes for application are composed of the neutral basis, plus a variant, and are given the variant name: Green, Blue, Coral, Wine, or Gray.

Constant Elements

As stated above, each color palette of the ECE contains constant elements that are identical between the palettes. The following constant elements comprise the primary neutral basis of each variant.

Constant elements are as follows:

1) Ceilings:

a) Gypsum wallboard or plaster ceilings are to be white.

b) Ceiling tile:

i) General purpose mineral fiber or fiberglass ceiling tile:

(1) Face: There are three grades of face texture available for general use—depending on budget.

(2) Edge detail options:

(a) Square-cut ceiling tile is intended for general use throughout a facility.

(b) Tegular-edge (a shaped edge that expresses and emphasizes the suspension grid) ceiling tile is intended for use in public lobbies or other prominent occupancies.

ii) Metal panel ceiling tile for clean and wet rooms, or architectural applications:

(1) Face:

(a) Perforated for acoustic application.

(b) Non-perforated where acoustics are a secondary concern.

(2) Finish:

(a) White for standard application.

(b) Chrome (bright or satin) for architectural applications.

2) Walls:

a) Paint:

- i) The primary (neutral) color selected for walls is a *light* taupe.
- ii) The primary (neutral) color selected for painted doors and trim is taupe.

b) Paintable wallcoverings:

Several scales of weave are available.

- i) Small-scale simple weave pattern for smaller rooms and spaces.
- ii) Large-scale simple weave for larger rooms and spaces.
- iii) Large-scale patterned weave for architectural enhancement.

c) Ceramic tile is white, with gray grout for floors, white grout for walls.

3) Floors:

a) Carpet is a random heather pattern that works with all of the variant palettes.

b) Walk-off mats.

- i) Walk-off mats are to be black/dark gray.
- ii) Grates are also acceptable, and preferred where a floor pocket is available. Grates should be silver in color if metal, with black or dark grey inserts when required.

c) Sheet flooring (vinyl, rubber or linoleum) for general use is an off-white/light gray.

d) Vinyl composition tile is a mottled off-white.

(Only a neutral has been specified, as the predominant flooring material within hospitals and clinics is expected to be sheet goods. Vinyl tile is expected to fill a more utilitarian need.)

e) Rubber base color is a brown/black that coordinates well with the taupe tones found in the neutral palette, and conceals abuse common to wall base.

4) Miscellaneous:

a) Window treatment:

- i) Vertical blinds are to be light taupe—a near match to the neutral wall paint—and either matte finish or textured to reduce reflected glare.
- ii) Drapery is always an accent element. In larger facilities a fabric may be required that works across a number of palettes (in which case, like carpet, drapery would be considered a Constant Element), or individual variants may be selected in keeping with the palette selected.

b) Cubicle curtains, like drapery, will always be considered an accent element. In larger facilities a fabric may be required that works across a number of palettes (in which case, like carpet, drapery would be considered a Constant Element), or individual variants may be selected in keeping with the palette selected.

c) Vinyl wall protection. The color selected is slightly darker than the neutral wall paint.

Variant Elements

Variant Elements are those that distinguish the variant palettes from one another and for which the variant palettes are named. They are primarily accent colors, and will constitute only 5-15 percent of the material finish of a space.

1) Walls:

- a) Paint colors have been selected from the RAL color system that have been judged as complementing the complete spectrum of the products specified for the ECE package.
- b) Ceramic tile is not recommended for use as a variant element. It should always be considered a constant.

2) Floors:

- a) Sheet flooring (vinyl, rubber or linoleum):
 - i) Where possible at the time of publication, several manufacturers' lines have been presented as examples of each product type for their performance characteristics and color compatibility across all variants. The manufacturers chosen have all color variants available within their product range. Because of the impact of the sheet flooring on the overall design success, and the nuances of color and pattern mix involved, it is strongly recommended that this specification be limited to manufacturers listed until such time as they are unable to provide the full spectrum of colors, or the product lines of other manufacturers are examined relative to the complete ECE material finish package.

3) Miscellaneous:

- a) Wall protection (including corner guards, crash rails and wall bumpers):
 - i) Three manufacturer's product lines have been specified that satisfy both performance and color requirements. Because color, not pattern, is the determining factor; manufacturers whose product meets the performance specification, and who will match all the variant colors from either line stock or custom colors, are acceptable.
- b) Drapery and Cubicle curtains:
 - i) When a variety of drapery and cubicle curtain fabrics is desired within large facilities to accommodate mixed palettes and add further differentiation between spaces, there are Variant options provided for each. Specifications are based upon product provided by a GSA vendor, in recognition of the procurement process routinely used. The products listed meet performance requirements and provide color matches compatible with the complete spectrum of manufacturer's products specified for other materials.

While the materials listed here primarily address wall, floor, and ceiling finishes; there are other elements whose material presence will affect the design of a facility. Many additional material selections are addressed in Chapter 3 *Material Finishes*. Generally, if not addressed, the inference is that the material should be regarded as a Constant Element and developed within the neutral basis.

Application of the Material Finishes

The various materials that comprise the ECE package have been selected for performance and design compatibility across all products, manufacturers, and colors in an effort to simplify the design process and to ensure the best results possible within an indeterminate system where products are selected through a competitive bid situation. Material selections and application have been developed in conjunction with Military Handbook 1191; however, as these are independent documents, and the ECE Guide is reference only and not policy, Handbook 1191 shall supersede this document should conflict arise.

As the ECE Guide provides direction for a broad range of project types, it is important that we assess the characteristics of the project first, before beginning the actual design process.

Budget

Reference the neutral palette and determine which material classes will be used given the project budget, or which are preferred for other reasons, such as function or management preference.

Less Expensive	⇔	More Expensive
Vinyl Tile	roadloom Carpet	Carpet Tile/Sheet Rubber
Paint		Painted Fiberglass Wallcovering
Base Square-Cut Acoustic Ceiling		Specialty Tegular Acoustic Ceiling

Architectural Prominence

Priorities for material finish expense are generally assigned to spaces relative to their impact on the occupants.

Entry lobbies and reception areas receive the most detailed treatment of any of the public spaces, and may be treated completely separately as they are the first contact between the facility and the user, and the effort is, therefore, made to establish a good first impression. Entry lobbies may require a detailed design to set them apart from the body of a facility. Balance is the critical element of such a space. Balancing furnishings on large floor areas, the multiple informational displays required, and the expanse of wall surface is crucial to the composition of the whole.

Corridors are generally treated in a more mundane fashion than lobbies and reception areas. They are still a major public space, but people move through them rapidly. They are pathways rather than destinations, and, as a result, are designed for the moving eye rather than a stationary one. Rhythm—which regulates the sense of progress as one moves down a path—is an appropriate expression within a corridor. This may be expressed through enhancement of a repetitive pattern of doorways, regular breaks in floor color, a series of archways crossing the corridor, or any number of other devices.

Offices, exam rooms, treatment rooms, and other working rooms are designed around the functions performed within them. Most hospital functions require plentiful light, ease of sanitation, and a comfortable atmosphere. These rooms are not intended to be showpieces. They are held as neutral receptacles for the furnishings of the facility.

What materials are the most appropriate?

All of the materials used in the ECE package have a history of use that has helped define recommended applications. Current practice calls for sheet vinyl flooring to be used throughout a facility. This is because of its durability, ease of cleaning, and economy relative to other flooring options such as vinyl composition tile, ceramic tile, or terrazzo. There are, however, areas where other materials are more appropriate. Sheet vinyl flooring resists general traffic, but not abrasive traffic the way ceramic tile does. Ceramic tile is, therefore, recommended for use in entryways, dental labs, and such. Sheet vinyl flooring is also susceptible to degradation by some oils, and is slippery when wet. The general-use sheet vinyl flooring specified may not meet the needs of surgical suites or specialized exam areas. Special-use sheet vinyl floorings are available for these applications.

The need for wall covering and wall protection is determined on the basis of traffic level, and aesthetics. Most walls within the hospitals and clinics will require nothing more than paint. In wet areas, such as labs and restrooms, ceramic tile is recommended. High abuse areas may benefit from application of vinyl wall protection, which resists impact well. Wallcoverings such as paintable fiberglass fabric are intended primarily as a visual enhancement, but because of their texture they will also help to conceal normal wear and tear. (Several weaves are available to complement different spaces, but use of multiple weaves within a single facility should be limited to only large facilities such as hospitals.)

Ceilings are generally either acoustic tile or plaster (or gypsum wallboard). Acoustic tile is often preferred due to its cost, acoustic benefits, and the fact that it provides access to the systems concealed behind it. On the other hand, acoustic tile tends to be a rather fragile surface, and damages easily. It is higher maintenance than plaster, is not easily cleaned, and loses much of its acoustic quality if painted. The choice between the two is often one of preference on the part of the specifier. The acoustic tiles called out in the ECE package are general-use only. For special applications, such as wet rooms or clean rooms, special-use products will need to be researched during the design phase of the project.

The materials presented in the ECE package form a diverse group from which the designer must choose according to functional need, aesthetic preference, and availability. Application guidelines for floors, walls and ceilings follow which summarize characteristics of common material finishes, so that they may be compared on an objective basis.

Flat finishes diffuse reflected light and, therefore, hide imperfections in a surface. The diffusion is generally caused by an open, porous surface finish that tends to capture soil and grime, and is not easy to clean. High gloss finishes are the easiest to clean—because their surface is smoother, more glass-like—but if applied to a rough, or uneven surface, every imperfection in that surface will show. Therefore, flat finishes are generally used only on ceilings and other surfaces where there is no contact by the user; eggshell and satin finishes are used on typical wall surfaces where contact is frequent but not excessive; and semi-gloss is used on detail surfaces where there is considerable wear and tear, such as doors and door frames. Gloss is only used where ease of maintenance is the highest priority.

Floors

Material	Advantages	Disadvantages	Uses
Carpet	Comfortable underfoot. Minor acoustic benefits.	Difficult to clean thoroughly.	Offices, conference, and waiting rooms.
Ceramic Tile (Glazed or Porcelain)	Waterproof. Resistant to most chemicals. Very durable.	Cold. May break under impact. Glazing may chip or crack.	High moisture areas. Bathrooms, kitchens.
Linoleum	Resilient. Resistant to impact and abrasion.	Susceptible to staining.	Moderate-traffic public areas.
Rubber	Resilient. Resistant to impact and abrasion.	Not resistant to grease or chemicals.	General use. Stairs.
Sheet Vinyl	Waterproof. Resistant to most chemicals. Monolithic.	Telegraphs sub-floor imperfections.	General use.
Static-Conductive Tile/Sheet Goods	Dissipates static electricity. Other advantages same as non-conductive material.	Sensitive to extreme temperatures. Expense.	Operating and anesthetizing areas, computer rooms, chemical laboratories.
Stone (Granite, Marble, Slate)	Durable. Withstands extreme weather conditions.	Expense. Polished surfaces slippery when wet.	Heavy traffic areas. Entries. Exterior.
Terrazzo	Durable. Withstands extreme weather conditions. Resistant to most chemicals. Monolithic.	Expense. Slippery when wet.	Heavy traffic areas. Stairs. Surgical Suites.
Vinyl Composition Tile	Easily maintained. Resistant to abrasion, oils, grease, acids, and alkalis.	Does not tolerate standing water.	General use.

Walls

Material	Advantages	Disadvantages	Uses
Ceramic Tile	Impervious. Available in a wide variety of sizes and finishes. Extremely durable.	Expensive wallcovering. Brittle. Requires extraordinary substrate. Can be perceived as cold.	Wet areas, clean areas, high traffic areas.
Paint	Inexpensive. Monolithic. Easily applied and maintained. Available in a wide variety of colors, finishes, and compositions. Flexible.	Tends to be one-dimensional. Only as durable as the substrate.	General use.
Paintable Fiberglass Wallcovering	Relatively easily applied, maintained and modified (by painting). Available in a wide variety of patterns, and textures. Can conceal flaws in substrate.	Not as easily repaired as paint alone.	Public spaces. Executive offices.
Vinyl Wall Protection (Sheet Goods)	Wall protection.	Susceptible to scuffing. Color is fixed.	High traffic, high abuse areas.
Vinyl Wallcovering (Roll Goods)	Relatively easily applied and maintained. Available in a variety of colors, patterns, and textures. Can conceal flaws in substrate.	Not easily repaired. Susceptible to delamination. Color is fixed.	Public spaces. Medium traffic surfaces.

Ceilings

Material	Advantages	Disadvantages	Uses
Acoustic Ceiling Panels	Easily installed. Relatively low initial cost. Relatively easily maintained. Excellent ceiling accessibility. Variety of colors, textures, and patterns available. Easily integrates HVAC and lighting devices.	Not easily maintained or repaired. Susceptible to moisture, impact damage, and soiling. Not easily cleaned.	Areas requiring acoustic attenuation, and not prone to moisture or impact.
Metal Ceilings	Primarily aesthetic. Defines a ceiling look. Can conceal mechanical devices. Available in a wide variety of colors and patterns. Can provide some acoustical benefits. Limited accessibility to ceiling space.	Not easily repaired. Susceptible to impact damage.	Primarily public spaces where aesthetic is priority, or moisture a concern.
Painted Wallboard or Plaster	Monolithic. Durable. Easily maintained. Unlimited color selection. Wide variety of finishes and textures. Relatively secure. Provides good environmental separation. Ultimately flexible.	Limits accessibility to space above ceiling.	Areas where durability, cleanability, and environmental separation are priorities; and accessibility is not.

Basic Application of Color Follows These Guidelines

Ceilings are white. Material choice is based upon function and budget.

Walls are a light neutral, with trim in a medium neutral. Doors may be stained or painted. If painted, they should be either medium or light neutral (see discussion and illustrations following). Paintable wallcovering may be used wherever texture is desirable. The scale of the texture should be commensurate with the scale of the space.

Floors are neutral sheet flooring. Large areas and corridors may have color accent borders and coves. Small areas should have neutral coves or the dark neutral rubber base. The neutral vinyl composition tile is an alternative in terms of function and expense to sheet flooring where material joints are acceptable. Vinyl composition tile will always be used with the dark neutral rubber base. Carpet may be used in offices and elsewhere determined by the design team as in keeping with the need for comfort acoustics and sanitation. The dark neutral rubber base is to be used with carpet.

Wood stains (within a traditional range—natural beech, natural cherry, mahogany...) may be used as budget allows. Stained finishes are generally more forgiving than paint finishes in terms of wear and abuse, but are more expensive to rework.

Accent paints may be used freely, but with restraint. These should generally be used for elements—such as reception desks—as opposed to accent walls, borders, and wainscots. The accent paint colors specified are intense and will quickly overcome a space if used too extensively.

Vinyl wall protection is available in both neutral and accent colors. Generally use the neutral, with application of accents limited to simple handrails or banding in crash rails. Cornerguards and such utilitarian devices are best left neutral. Do not use sheet wall protection if paint will suffice. The sheet wall protection is more expensive and not as easily changed-out in the future.

Vertical blinds, in the lightest neutral, are the window treatment of choice, as they are ultimately flexible and add a measure of uniformity to the exterior of the facility. If draperies or some other soft treatment are required, these should be applied in addition to the vertical blinds.

Cubicle curtains are available in two materials. One is a multi-colored patterned fabric—which complements all variant palettes—for use in exam rooms, changing rooms, patient rooms, and the like. The other fabrics are solid colors, coordinated to the green, coral, and blue palettes, and for use in more-utilitarian and large-scale applications such as emergency rooms, therapy rooms, and large patient wards.

Typical Application Detail Illustrations

Typical Base Details

Selection of the proper base is determined primarily by the floor covering choice (Figs. 4-7). Carpet will always take a straight rubber base, and vinyl composition tile a coved rubber base. Where existing terrazzo bases will remain (with either carpet or vinyl), they may be painted to match the rubber base. The preferred base for sheet flooring is a self-base (the flooring is coved up the wall as shown in Figure 7 below) with trim cap and corner beads to protect the edges and corners. In public areas, an accent vinyl can be used, to provide a border around the perimeter of the space. In lesser spaces, the actual field vinyl can be wrapped into the cove.

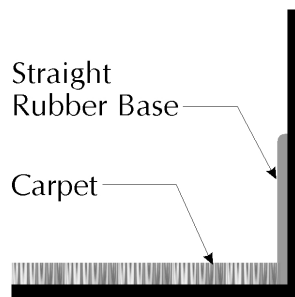


Fig. 4 Applied base at Carpet

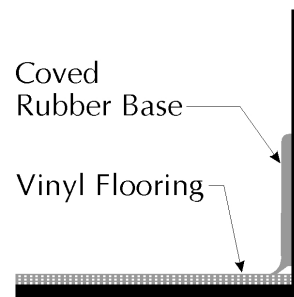


Fig. 5 Applied base at Vinyl (Rubber and Linoleum similar)

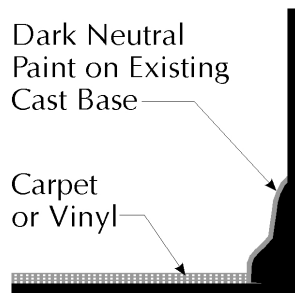


Fig. 6 Painted Base

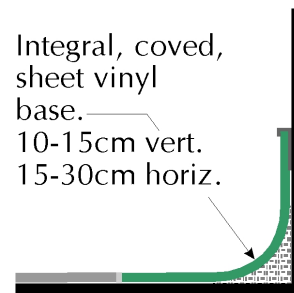


Fig. 7 Vinyl Self Base (Rubber and Linoleum similar)

Applied Wainscots and Cornices

Applied elements such as railings, wainscots and cornices will dramatically affect the appearance of a space. A simple railing (Fig. 9) can serve as a unifying element in an otherwise disjoint space. Caution must be exercised in applying the rail, however, to avoid *contributing to* disjunction with the introduction of numerous short sections of rail between banks of doors, breaks at water coolers, fire extinguishers, and such. Generally, sections of walls should be a minimum of two meters in length if they are to receive a rail.

Wainscoting also can serve as a unifying element (Fig. 10). When used with a rail, concerns about short sections are compounded, as the wainscot itself needs to be continuous even though it may be advisable—as above—to drop the rail in some areas. The resulting appearance may seem unfinished. Wainscots can also make a space appear very bottom-heavy if the wainscot is much darker than the upper part of the wall. If a protective wainscot is required, the neutral option is recommended. Formed wall protection elements, such as handrails and crash rails, do not need to be contrasting in color. If a rail is needed—as a head rail in a waiting room for example—it can be specified in the neutral color, and not dramatically affect the appearance of the space while performing its intended function.

For spaces where the ceiling height is excessive—disproportional to the plan of the space—a cornice is an effective way of lowering the apparent height of the ceiling (Fig. 11). A small cornice won't do though. It needs to have a strong presence.



Fig. 8 Corridor

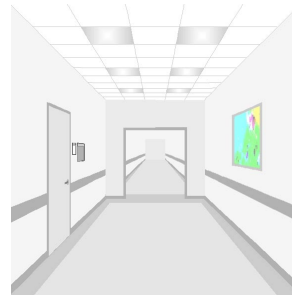


Fig. 9 Applied Rail



Fig. 10 Wainscot

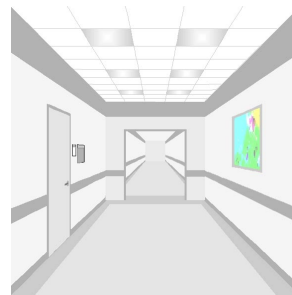


Fig. 11 Painted Cornice

Accent Walls

The accent colors provided in the ECE package may be used to redefine the shape of a space by painting an entire wall, thus dramatically shifting the visual emphasis within the space. Accent walls should be employed with discretion. The accent colors provided are very strong, and could easily be overpowering if over-used. They are most appropriate in large spaces, where a powerful statement is needed to balance the volume of space, or in rooms that are uncomfortably shaped, that might benefit from the visual effect of an accent wall. As seen in the simple example below, the application of a strong, dark color to one wall within a space will dramatically affect our perception of the space. In Figure 13, the room is foreshortened, and the emphasis on the individual elements of door and artwork diminished as they are drawn into a unified cluster by the dark color. In Figure 14, the back wall appears farther away, and the wall to the left is emphasized, almost overpowering.

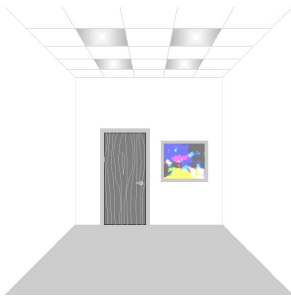


Fig. 12 Simple Room

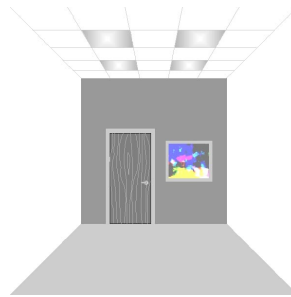


Fig. 13 Rear Accent Wall

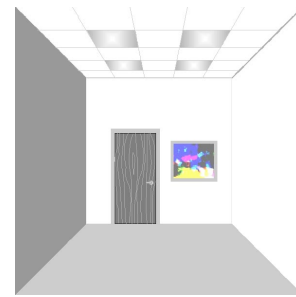


Fig. 14 Adjacent Accent Wall

Window Treatments

Window treatments are another means of redefining the shape of a space, or, in this case, that of an element within a space. Three examples are given of inside-mounted (inside the window frame) blinds, outside-mounted blinds, and interior blinds with drapery. In the first example (Fig. 15), the blinds mounted within the window become part of the window, which retains its original, minimal presence, regardless of the position of the blinds. In the second example (Fig. 16), the blinds become the dominant presence, and the window moves to the background. The blinds effectively increase the size of the window as well. Finally, in Fig. 17, the drapery, in combination with an interior-mounted blind, softens the appearance of the window within the room, introduces another element—color—and adds another layer to the composition of the wall.

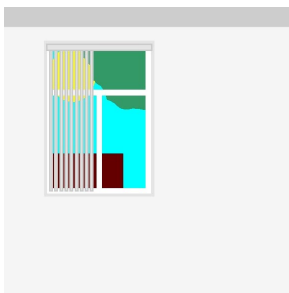


Fig. 15 Inside-Mount Blinds

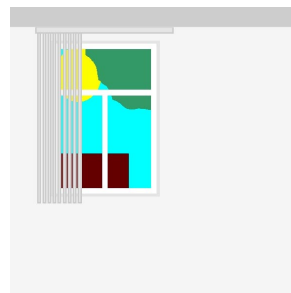


Fig. 16 Outside-Mount Blinds

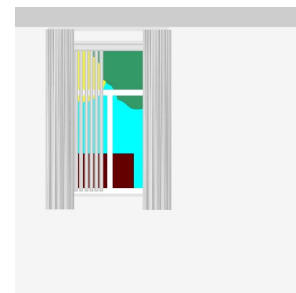


Fig. 17 Drapery

From the exterior, all three applications are similar in appearance, but from the inside, there is considerable difference. The choice of which treatment to use will be made based on function of the window (an interior hopper window—one that opens down and in from the top—may not clear the inside-mounted blind), and the function of the room (casegoods and equipment cluttering the window wall may not allow outside-mounted blinds to extend beyond the window edge). Drapery are most appropriate in spaces that require a softening touch—patient rooms, social service areas and such—they are not recommended for general use.

Door Finishes

Door finishes may be easily altered to affect the prominence given a door visually, thereby changing the emphasis on the door. This can help with the overall composition of a space, and aid in wayfinding as well. Doors to prominent spaces may be stained, giving them maximum contrast with their surroundings and enhancing their position within the visual composition (Fig. 18). Doors that are painted in the medium-neutral trim color have a secondary position within this hierarchy (Fig. 19). Doors painted out to match the wall (in color only—not sheen) blend in with the wall and have minimal visual impact (Fig. 20). This is most appropriate for utility closets, doors to closed administrative areas, and non-public doors generally. Kickplates should be considered for any door on a heavily trafficked path.

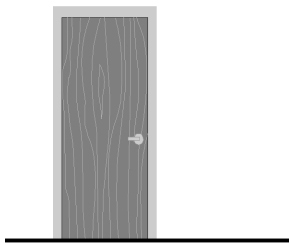


Fig. 18 Stained Door

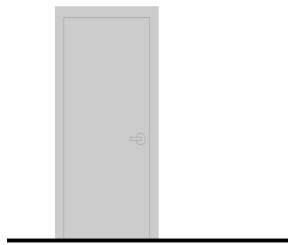


Fig. 19 Trim-Painted Door

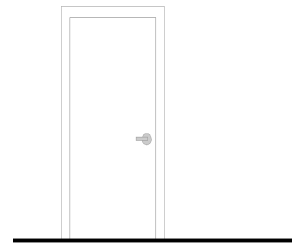


Fig. 20 Painted-Out Door

Stained doors will often wear better than painted doors under normal use. The wood grain conceals many smaller nicks and scratches that are readily apparent on painted doors. But stained doors that have been abused by repeated fastening of racks and signs and such are much more difficult to repair than a painted door. Therefore, the general rule of thumb is: do not attach anything to the face of a stained door unless absolutely necessary!

Preparing Construction Documents

Once the materials and colors have been determined for a given project, the various components are scheduled. In construction documents, materials are referenced by abbreviations. For the purposes of illustrating various ECE Solutions, the following abbreviations are used to identify the materials used (note that this is an illustration only, and not a comprehensive list).

ATC	Acoustic Ceiling Tile	RB	Rubber Base
CPT	Carpet	SVF	Sheet Vinyl Flooring
CT	Ceramic Tile	VCT	Vinyl Composition Tile
PL	Plastic Laminate	VWP	Vinyl Wall Protection
PT	Paint	WM	Walk-Off Mat
PWC	Paintable Wallcovering		

Different colors, finishes, or patterns are assigned different numbers under the same code.

ATC-1	Standard Ceiling Tile	PT-1	Ceiling White
ATC-2	Accent Ceiling Tile	PT-2	Off-White
ATC-3	Specialty Ceiling Tiles	PT-3	Medium Neutral
		PT-4	Color Accents

For paint and stain, one additional level of coding is necessary to define the finish. (Typical 60° Gloss Meter ranges are shown in parenthesis.)

a	Flat (Below 5)	d	Semi-Gloss (35-65)
b	Eggshell (5-20)	e	Gloss (Over 65)
c	Satin (20-35)		

The various components of a finish palette are scheduled as follows.

Flooring Materials

Carpet

General Use	CPT-1
Walk-Off Mat	WM-1

Ceramic Floor Tile

General Use	CT-1
Special Applications	CT-3, 4...

Sheet Vinyl

General Use	SVF-1
Accent to General Use	SVF-2, 3...

Vinyl Composition Tile

General Use	VCT-1
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Resilient Base

RB-1

Wall Materials

Paint

General Wall	PT-2c
General Door and Trim	PT-3d
Accent Paints	PT-4, 5...

Door and Trim Stain

ST-1

Paintable Wallcovering

PWC-1, 2...

General Use Ceramic Wall Tile

CT-2

Vinyl Wall Protection

VWP-1, VWP-2...

Ceiling Materials (ATC Spec Includes Tile and Grid)

General Use.....	ATC-1/PT-1a
Special Use.....	ATC-2/PT-1a

Miscellaneous Materials (Generally Specified within Their Respective Spec Section)

Drapery/Cubicle Curtain Fabrics
Plumbing Fixture Colors
Hardware Color/Metal Finishes
Toilet and Bath Fixtures and Accessory Colors

This is applied using the following generic finish schedule. (Illustrations follow.)

Public/Administrative Spaces

Entry/Reception

Walk-Off Mat.....	WM-1
Floors	SVF-1/CT-3
Base.....	RB-1/CT-3
Walls	PT-2c
Ceiling.....	PT-1a or ATC-1
Doors and Frames	Clear Anodized Aluminum/Match Exterior

Primary Waiting Rooms

Floors	SVF-1 with SVF-2 Border or RB-1 Base, or VCT-1 with RB-1 Base, or CPT- with RB-1 Base
Walls	PT-2b Over Choice of PWC
Ceiling.....	PT-1a or ATC-2
Doors and Frames	PT-3d or ST-1c

Offices/Records/Pharmacy/Supply

Floors	CPT-1 or VCT-1
Base.....	RB-1
Walls	PT-2b
Ceiling.....	ATC-1 or PT-1a
Doors and Frames	PT-3d or ST-1c

Corridors

Floors	SVF-1 with SVF-2 Border and Base, or VCT-1 with RB-1 Base
Walls	PT-2b (PWC an Option)
Bumper Rails/ Wall Protection Elements	VWP-1 w/VWP-2 Accent
Ceiling.....	ATC-1 or PT-1a
Doors and Frames	PT-3d or ST-1c

Restrooms

Floors	CT-1
Walls	CT-2
Ceiling.....	PT-1c or ATC-3
Doors and Frames	PT-3d or ST-1c

Operatory/Procedural Spaces

Patient Rooms/Exam Rooms

Floors	VCT-1 with RB-1 Base or SVF-1 with SVF-1 or 2 Border and Base
Base.....	RB-1
Walls	PT-2b
Ceiling.....	ATC-1 or PT-1b
Doors and Frames	PT-3d or ST-1c

Dental Treatment Rooms

Floors and Base	SVF-1
Walls	PT-2c
Ceiling.....	ATC-1
Doors and Frames	PT-3d or ST-1c

Special Treatment Spaces

Floor and Base	SVF-1 or Special Application SVF
Walls	PT-2d
Ceiling.....	PT-1c or Special Application ATC
Doors and Frames	PT-3d

Dental Labs

Floors/Base	CT-1
Walls	PT-2c, CT-2
Ceiling.....	ATC-1 or PT-1b
Doors and Frames	PT-3c

Medical Labs

Floors/Base	SVF-1
Walls	PT-2c, CT-2
Ceiling.....	ATC-1 or PT-1b
Doors and Frames	PT-3c

In construction documents, the primary means of indicating the application of a material finish palette to a facility is to establish a room finish schedule that specifies:

- the room being addressed,
- the material surface being addressed,
- the material identifier,
- and any additional remarks that cannot otherwise be captured in the body of the schedule.

ROOM NO.	ROOM NAME	FLOOR	BASE	WALLS				CEILING	REMARKS
				NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST		
101	WAITING/RECEPTION	SVF-1	SVF-2	PT-2B/ PWC-1	PT-2B/ PWC-1	PT-2B/ PWC-1	PT-2B/ PWC-1	ATC-1	SEE BASE DETAIL.
102	CORRIDOR	SVF-1	SVF-2	PT-2B/ PWC-1	PT-2B/ PWC-1	PT-2B/ PWC-1	PT-2B/ PWC-1	ATC-1	SEE VINYL WALL PROTECTION DETAIL.
103	DENTAL EXAM	SVF-1	SV-1	PT-2B	PT-2C	PT-2C	PT-2C	ATC-1	
104	PATIENT ROOM	SVF-1	RB-1	PT-2B	PT-2C	PT-2C	PT-2C	ATC-1	
105	STAFF	CPT-1	RB-1	PT-2B	PT-2C	PT-2C	PT-2C	PT-1A	
106	STORAGE	VCT-1	RB-1	PT-1A	PT-2C	PT-2C	PT-2C	PT-1A	
107	MECH ROOM	EXIST. CONC.	RB-1	PT-1A	PT-1A	PT-1A	PT-1A	PT-1A	
108	PVNT MED SPEC	SVF-1	RB-1	PT-2B	PT-2C	PT-2C	PT-2C	PT-1A	
109	ENV HEALTH LAB	CT-3	CT-3	PT-2C	PT-2C	PT-2C	PT-2C	PT-1A	
110	SECRETARY	CPT-1	RB-1	PT-2B	PT-2B	PT-2B	PT-2B	PT-1A	

Figure 21. Room Finish Schedule

Regardless of whether or not the contract documents are prepared by the designer, it is essential to the designer's understanding and communication of the project that this or some similar schedule be prepared.

Illustrations of the application of this schedule to Rooms 101, 102, 103 and 104 follow.

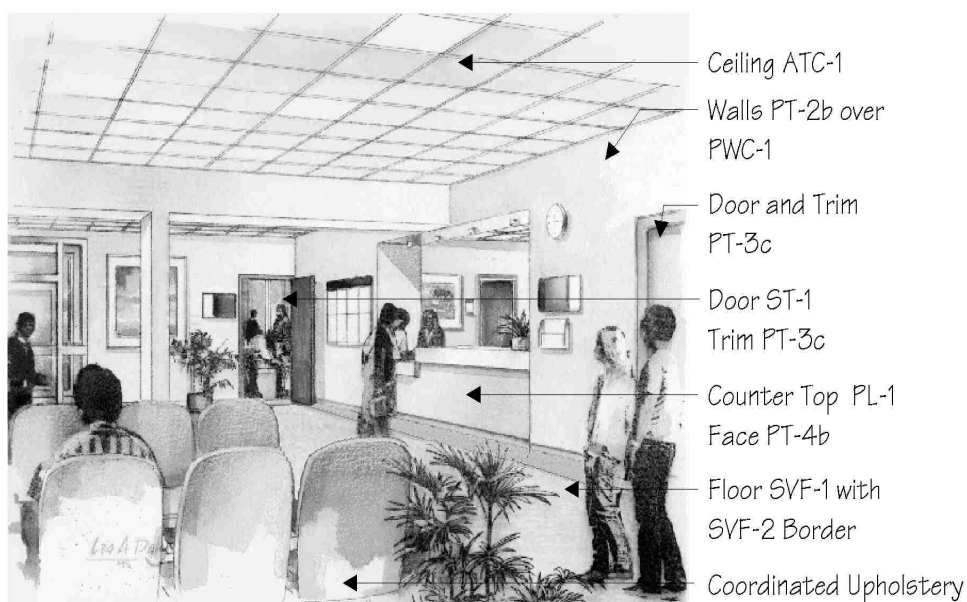


Figure 22. Room 101 Waiting/Reception

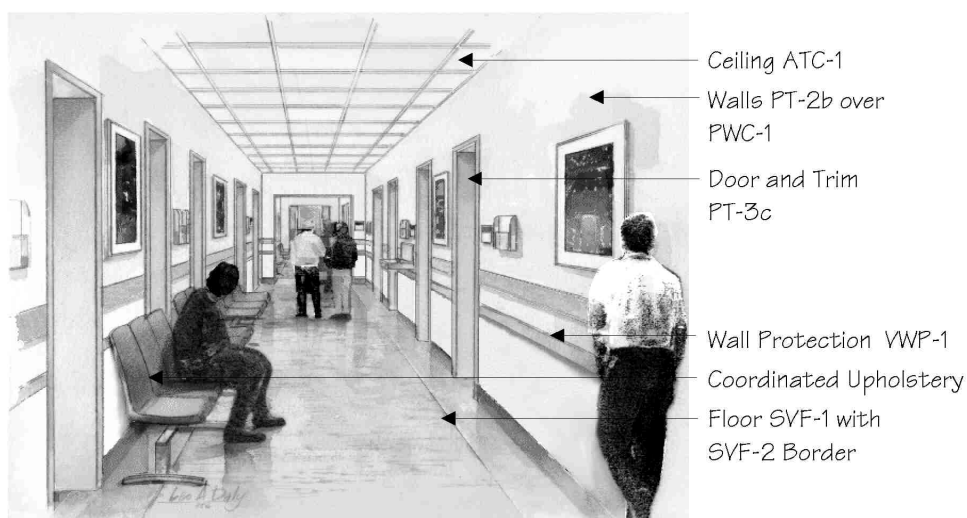


Figure 23. Room 102 Corridor

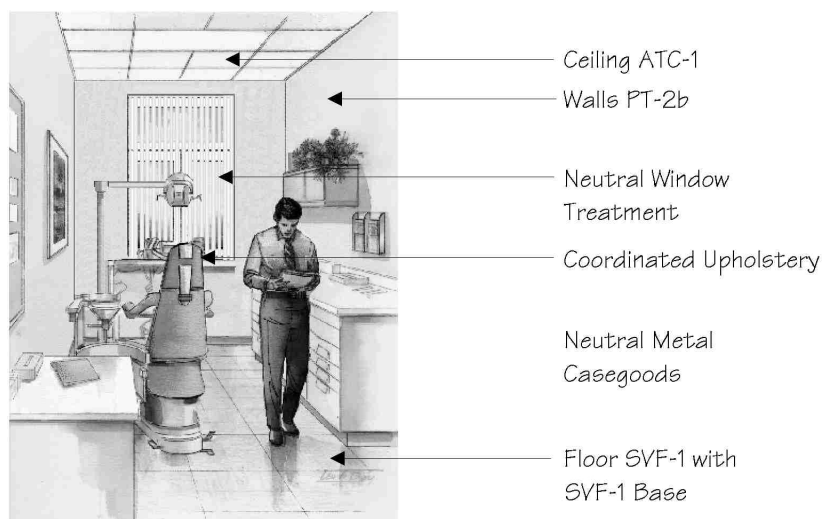


Figure 24. Room 103 Dental Exam



Figure 25. Room 104 Patient Room